Ontario

Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
Public Health Division

Ontario Influenza Bulletin
2005-2006 Season

SURVEILLANCE WEEK 13 (March 26 – April 1, 2006)

This issue of the Ontario Influenza Bulletin provides information on the surveillance period from March 26 – April 1, 2006. The analysis for this issue occurred on Wednesday April 5, 2006, therefore all data is current to that date.

During week 13 of 2006, influenza activity in Ontario was similar compared to that of the previous week. Eighty one sporadically occurring cases of influenza (47 influenza A, 30 influenza B and 4 unspecified) were reported through iPHIS. In addition, there were 8 institutional outbreaks (7 influenza A and 1 influenza B) reported. The highest level of influenza activity in Ontario was 'widespread activity' reported from Toronto, although seven individual health units from other regions also reported 'widespread activity'. Overall 'localized activity' were reported from Eastern, Central East, Central West, North West and Southwest regions. Only North East region reported 'sporadic activity'.

When entering laboratory-confirmed influenza cases in iPHIS, please enter the "type" (i.e. A vs. B) of influenza, using the sub-type dropdown menu. If the sub-type is not known, please enter either "Influenza A - Not sub-typed" or "Influenza B " rather then leaving the field blank. Leaving the field blank results in the classification of your case as "unspecified". Additionally, when running Cognos reports by sub-type, if ALL influenza "sub-types" are selected in a prompt, cases with this field blank in iPHIS will not be returned (i.e. will not appear in the report). Your attention to this matter is most appreciated.

For a definition of influenza-like illness (ILI) activity levels and links to websites providing current influenza information from other sources, please refer to the attached Appendix. If you would like to provide feedback on the Bulletin, please contact Shafiq Chowdhury (shafiq.chowdhury@moh.gov.on.ca, 416-327-7807) or Anne-Luise Winter (anne-luise.winter@moh.gov.on.ca, 416-327-7301).

Table 1: Summary of laboratory-confirmed influenza cases and institutional influenza outbreaks, by health region, March 26 – April 1, 2006.

Lab-confirmed Influenza cases*	HEALTH REGION							TOTAL
	North West	North East	Eastern	Central East	Toronto	South West	Central West	
Influenza A	0	4	5	7	19	4	8	47
Influenza B	0	3	1	12	10	0	4	30
Influenza A & B	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unspecified †	0	0	3	0	1	0	0	4
Total new cases	***0***	***7***	***9***	***19***	***30***	***4***	***12***	***81***
Institutional influenza outbreaks‡	0	0	0	2	2	2	2	8

SOURCE: MOHLTC [iPHIS, Health Unit Reports to PHD, Provincial Appendix D and Appendix E Database]

* Includes reports of sporadically occurring influenza through iPHIS, as well as cases in institutional outbreaks, with dates of onset in the surveillance period.

† Type of influenza, i.e. A vs B, was not specified in iPHIS (i.e. Influenza subtype dropdown menu left blank or reported as "Unspecified").

‡ Laboratory-confirmed outbreaks in institutions during the surveillance period.

Table 2: Confirmed* cases of influenza by health unit & health region, with an episode date† between March 26 – April 1, 2006.

Region	Health Unit	Laboratory-Confirmed Influenza			
		Influenza A	Influenza B	Unspecified‡	TOTAL
North West	Northwestern	0	0	0	0
	Thunder Bay District	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL NORTH WEST	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
North East	Algoma	4	0	0	4
	North Bay Parry Sound District	0	0	0	0
	Porcupine	0	1	0	1
	Sudbury & District	0	2	0	2
	Timiskaming	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL NORTH EAST	**4**	**3**	**0**	**7**
Eastern	Eastern Ontario	0	0	0	0
	Hastings & Prince Edward Counties	0	0	0	0
	Kingston, Frontenac, Lennox & Addington	0	0	0	0
	Leeds, Grenville & Lanark	0	0	1	1
	Ottawa	5	1	2	8
	Renfrew	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL EASTERN	**5**	**1**	**3**	**9**
Central East	Durham Region	0	0	0	0
	Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District	5	11	0	16
	Peterborough County-City	0	1	0	1
	Simcoe Muskoka District	1	0	0	1
	York Region	0	0	0	0
	Peel Region	1	0	0	1
	TOTAL CENTRAL EAST	**7**	**12**	**0**	**19**
Toronto	Toronto	19	10	1	30
	TOTAL TORONTO	**19**	**10**	**1**	**30**
South West	Grey-Bruce	2	0	0	2
	Elgin-St. Thomas	0	0	0	0
	Huron County	0	0	0	0
	Chatham-Kent	0	0	0	0
	Lambton	0	0	0	0
	Middlesex-London	2	0	0	2
	Oxford	0	0	0	0
	Perth District	0	0	0	0
	Windsor-Essex County	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL SOUTHWEST	**4**	**0**	**0**	**4**
Central West	Brant	0	0	0	0
	Haldimand-Norfolk	0	0	0	0
	Hamilton	8	2	0	10
	Niagara Region	0	2	0	2
	Halton Region	0	0	0	0
	Waterloo Region	0	0	0	0
	Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL CENTRAL WEST	**8**	**4**	**0**	**12**
	TOTAL ONTARIO	***47***	***30***	***4***	***81***

SOURCE: MOHLTC [iPHIS, Health Unit Reports to PHD]

* Confirmed cases of influenza can include laboratory-confirmed cases and epi-linked cases.

† Episode Date for a case corresponds to the earliest date on record for the case according to the iPHIS hierarchy (Symptom Date > Clinical Diagnosis Date > Specimen Collection Date > Lab Test Date > Reported Date)

‡ Type of influenza, i.e. A vs B, was not specified in iPHIS (i.e. Influenza subtype dropdown menu left blank or reported as unspecified)

Table 3: Cumulative* confirmed† cases of influenza by health unit & health region, September 1, 2005 to April 1, 2006.

Region	Health Unit	Laboratory-Confirmed Influenza			
		Influenza A	Influenza B	Unspecified‡	TOTAL
North West	Northwestern	6	6	0	12
	Thunder Bay District	2	0	0	2
	TOTAL NORTH WEST	**8**	**6**	**0**	**14**
North East	Algoma	8	2	5	15
	North Bay Parry Sound District	0	2	10	12
	Porcupine	7	10	3	20
	Sudbury & District	4	12	0	16
	Timiskaming	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL NORTH EAST	**19**	**26**	**18**	**63**
Eastern	Eastern Ontario	1	0	0	1
	Hastings & Prince Edward Counties	14	12	0	26
	Kingston, Frontenac, Lennox & Addington	17	17	0	34
	Leeds, Grenville & Lanark	1	0	18	19
	Ottawa	46	5	6	57
	Renfrew	6	2	0	8
	TOTAL EASTERN	**85**	**36**	**24**	**145**
Central East	Durham Region	4	1	1	6
	Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District	21	53	1	75
	Peterborough County-City	2	5	3	10
	Simcoe Muskoka District	21	36	18	75
	York Region	18	51	4	73
	Peel Region	27	46	14	87
	TOTAL CENTRAL EAST	**93**	**192**	**41**	**326**
Toronto	Toronto	163	181	1	345
	TOTAL TORONTO	**163**	**181**	**1**	**345**
South West	Grey-Bruce	14	28	2	44
	Elgin-St. Thomas	1	0	0	1
	Huron County	3	22	1	26
	Chatham-Kent	1	0	1	2
	Lambton	0	0	0	0
	Middlesex-London	22	16	4	42
	Oxford	3	15	4	22
	Perth District	1	10	1	12
	Windsor-Essex County	16	6	1	23
	TOTAL SOUTHWEST	**61**	**97**	**14**	**172**
Central West	Brant	0	0	1	1
	Haldimand-Norfolk	0	7	1	8
	Hamilton	65	86	0	151
	Niagara Region	4	26	3	33
	Halton Region	19	16	1	36
	Waterloo Region	21	32	6	59
	Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph	2	28	11	41
	TOTAL CENTRAL WEST	**111**	**195**	**23**	**329**
	TOTAL ONTARIO	***540***	***733***	***121***	***1394***

SOURCE: MOHLTC [iPHIS, Health Unit Reports to PHD]

* Cumulative case counts include late reports and records that are otherwise reconciled. Therefore, cumulative counts may not equal new cases plus previous cumulative value.

† Confirmed cases of influenza can include laboratory-confirmed cases and epi-linked cases.

‡ Type of influenza, i.e. A vs B, was not specified in iPHIS (i.e. Influenza subtype dropdown menu left blank or reported as unspecified)

Influenza Subtype(s):

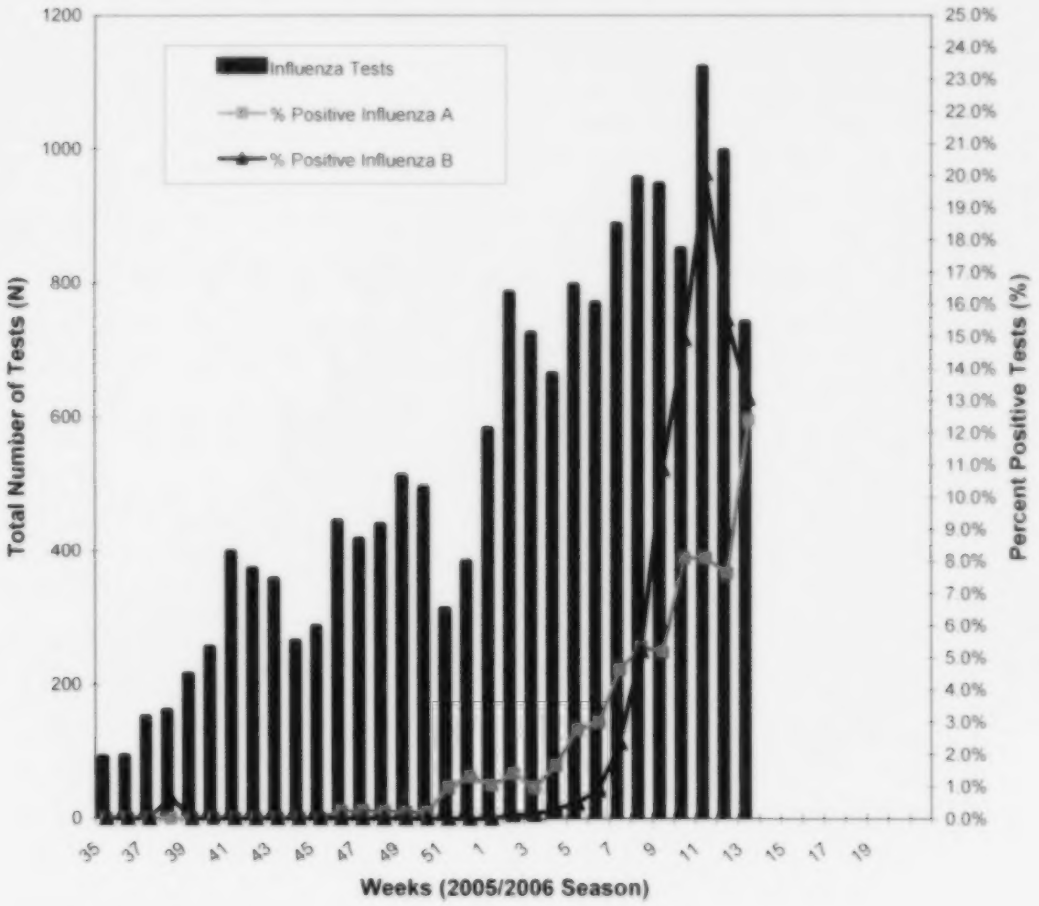
During Week 13, 3,030 isolates were received by the Public Health Agency of Canada, with a total of 421 and 193 testing positive for influenza A and B respectively. The majority of the influenza A isolates (251) were from Quebec (59.6%), Ontario 92 (21.9%), and Alberta 36 (8.6%). The majority of the influenza B isolates (97) were from Ontario (50.3%), New Brunswick 26 (13.5%) and Saskatchewan 22 (11.4%).*

Since the start of the 2005-2006 influenza season, the National Microbiology Laboratory (NML) has antigenically characterized 668 influenza viruses. Since the end of February 2006, the vast majority of influenza B viruses characterized have been B/Malaysia/2506/2004-like, which is the WHO-recommended influenza B component for the Northern Hemisphere 2006-2007 influenza vaccine.**

Note: The 2005-2006 season Canadian vaccine contains an A/ New Caledonia/20/1999(H1N1)-like, an A/ California/7/2004(H3N2)-like, and a B/Shanghai/361/2002-like virus strain.

* These data have been obtained from the Respiratory Virus Detection table of Public Health Agency of Canada for week 13, 2006
** These data have been obtained from the FluWatch report of the Public Health Agency of Canada for week 12 (March 19 - 25) 2006

Figure 1: Total number of influenza tests performed and percent of positive tests in Ontario reported to the Centre for Infectious Disease Prevention and Control (CIDPC), by report week*.



Source: Public Health Agency of Canada

* Total numbers reported include late reports, therefore totals may not be equal to the sum of the weekly numbers.

Note: Cumulative numbers for season to date are available through FluWatch: http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/fluwatch/

Table 4: Institutional respiratory outbreaks in Ontario, September 1, 2005 to April 1, 2006

Institutional Respiratory Infection Outbreaks

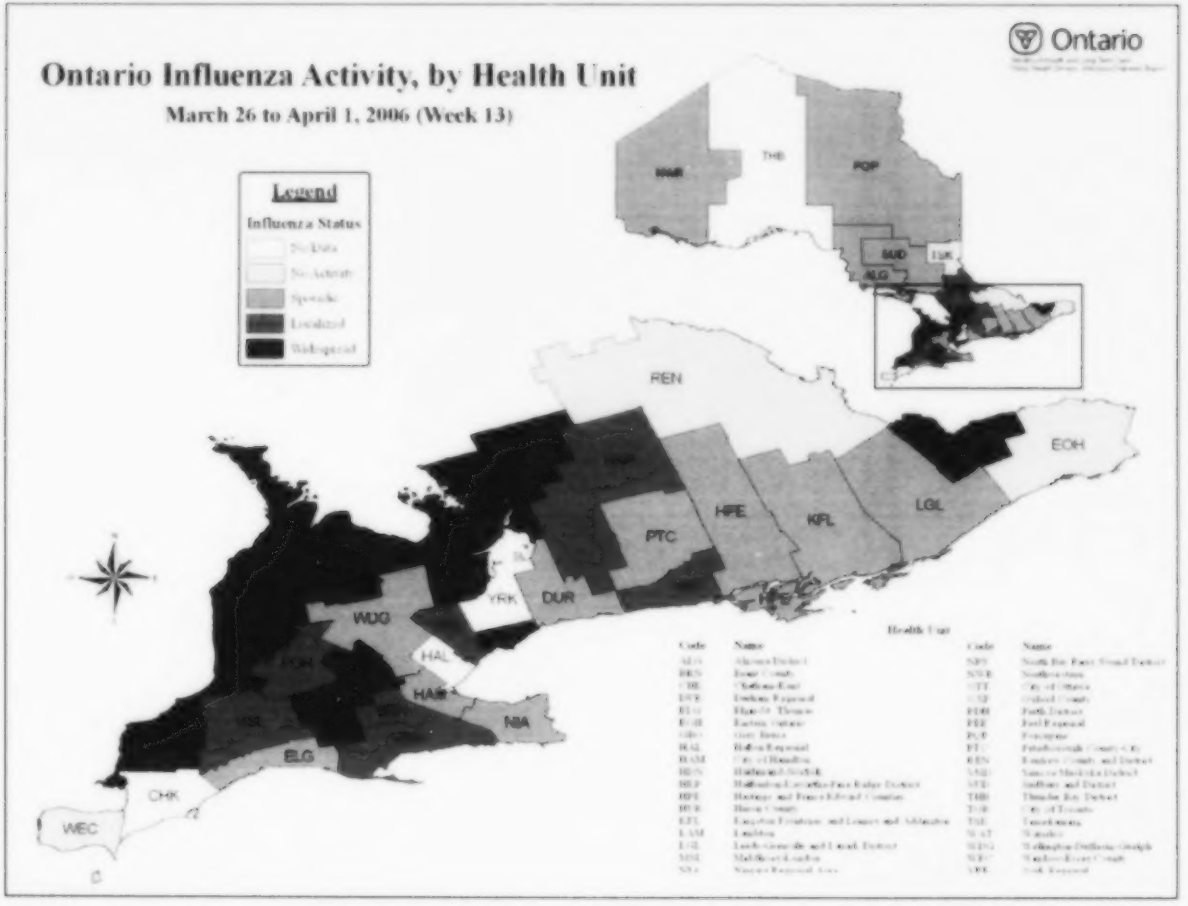
New Outbreaks*	**N**	**% (of outbreaks)**
Influenza A	7	38.9
Influenza B	1	5.5
Influenza A and B	0	0.0
Parainfluenza (All types)	1	5.5
Other organisms	0	0.0
No organism identified	9	50.0
TOTAL	***18***	***100***
Total Respiratory Infection Outbreaks, Season to Date**	**N**	**% (of outbreaks)**
Influenza A	80	13.9
Influenza B	13	2.3
Influenza A and B	1	0.2
Parainfluenza (All types)	42	7.3
Other organisms	79	13.8
No organism identified	359	62.5
TOTAL	***574***	***100***
Types of Institutions (All Outbreaks) **	**N**	**% (of outbreaks)**
Long-Term Care Homes	480	83.6
Hospitals	32	5.6
Retirement Homes	57	9.9
Other	5	0.9
TOTAL	***574***	***100***
Outbreak Related Complications (All Outbreaks) **	**N**	**% (of cases)**
Deaths		
Residents	166	2.5
Staff	0	0.0
Pneumonia (Chest x-ray confirmed)		
Residents	301	4.5
Staff	19	0.9
Hospitalizations		
Residents	352	5.3
Staff	10	0.5

SOURCE: MOHLTC [Provincial Appendix D and Appendix E Database]

* New outbreaks are those in which the date of onset of the first case occurred in the current surveillance period (March 26 – April 1, 2006)

** Season to date includes all outbreaks in which the date of onset of the first case occurred between September 1, 2005 and April 1, 2006.

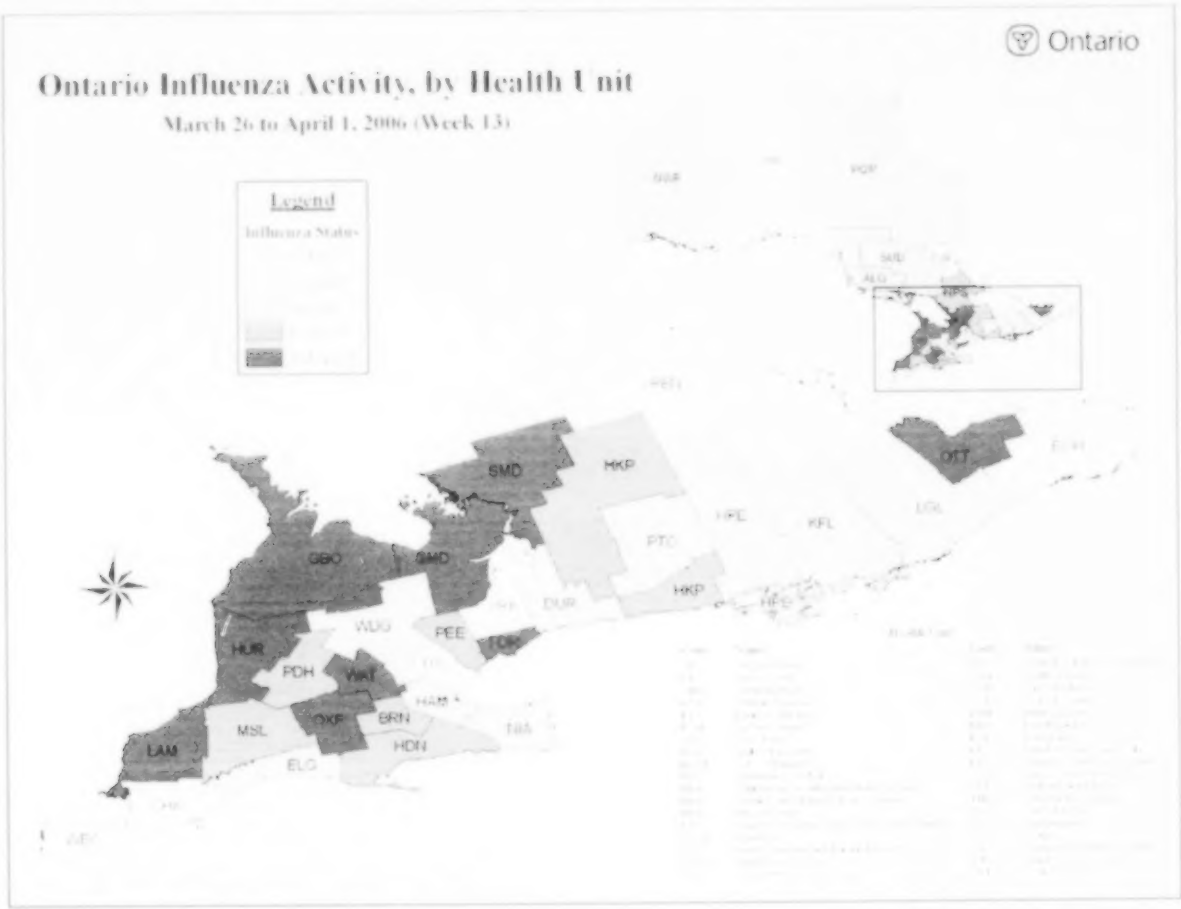
Figure 2: Influenza activity* in Ontario by health unit, Week 13 (March 26 – April 1) 2006.



SOURCE: MOHLTC [Provincial Influenza Activity Report (Appendix C) Database]

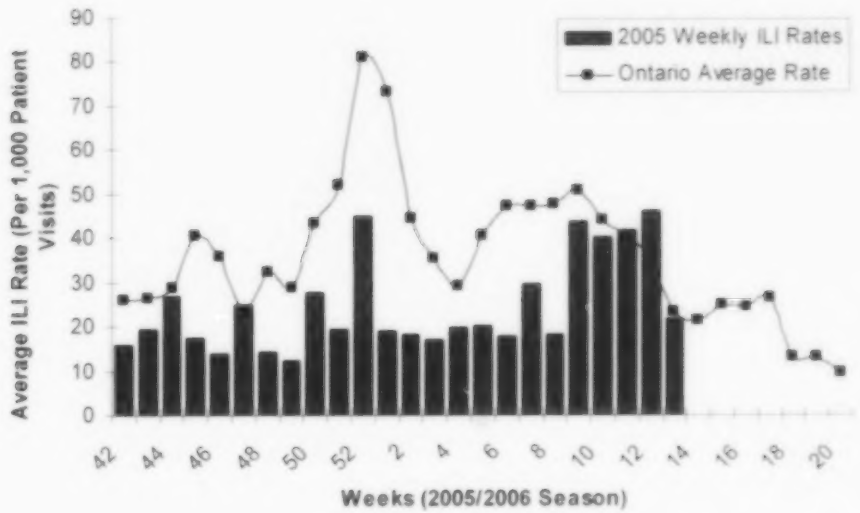
* Influenza activity levels, as represented on this map, are assigned by local public health units and reported to the MOHLTC by the Tuesday following the end of the surveillance week at 4 pm. Activity levels are assigned based on laboratory confirmations, ILI reports from various sources, and laboratory-confirmed institutional outbreaks. Please refer to detailed definitions for the 2005-2006 season included in the Appendix.

Figure 2: **Influenza activity* in Ontario by health unit, Week 13 (March 26 – April 1) 2006.**



SOURCE: MOHLTC [Provincial Influenza Activity Report (Appendix C) Database]
* Influenza activity levels, as represented on this map, are assigned by local public health units and reported to the MOHLTC by the Tuesday following the end of the surveillance week at 4 pm. Activity levels are assigned based on laboratory confirmations, ILI reports from various sources, and laboratory-confirmed institutional outbreaks. Please refer to detailed definitions for the 2005-2006 season included in the Appendix.

Figure 3: Average influenza-like illness consultation rate (per 1,000 patient visits) reported by sentinel physicians* in Ontario in 2005- 2006 season, by report week, Compared to Ontario average† (1996/96 to 2004/05 seasons).



Source: Public Health Agency of Canada

* Sentinel physician information is reported to Public Health Agency of Canada.

† No data available for mean rate in previous years for weeks 21 to 39 (1996-1997 through 2002-2003 seasons). During weeks 20-39, 2002-2003/2004-2005 seasons, ILI is reported once every two weeks, on even weeks only.

Table 5: Average Influenza-like illness consultation rate (per 1,000 patient visits) reported by Sentinel Physicians* in Ontario, by age group and postal code for week 13 (March 26 – April 1), 2006.

Postal Code	0 – 4	5 – 19	20 – 64	65 +	Unknown
K0C1A0	0	0	0	0	0
K2P1V3	0	0	0	0	0
K1J5M2	0	0	0	0	0
K0H2N0	0	2	1	0	0
K7H2W6	0	0	1	0	0
K7L1E9	0	0	0	0	0
K0L1C0	0	0	0	0	0
K0K1H0	0	0	0	0	0
L1A3W4	0	0	0	0	0
K0M1A0	0	0	0	0	0
L1B1H8	0	1	1	3	0
L4L4Y7	0	0	0	0	0
L4J7Y3	0	0	0	0	0
M4X1W4	0	0	0	0	0
M4E1V8	0	0	0	0	0
M8Y1W3	0	0	1	0	0
M2N6H7	0	1	0	0	0
M2J2Z1	0	0	0	0	0
M3H1T1	0	0	0	0	0
M2K1E1	0	0	0	1	0
M9W6N5	0	1	0	0	0
L5J2W4	0	0	1	0	0
L4Y2N8	0	0	0	0	0
L6W2A4	0	3	0	0	0
L6V4H6	0	1	2	0	0
L9W1G2	0	0	0	0	0
L7R1M6	0	0	0	0	0
L7R1M6	0	0	0	0	0
L9H1V1	1	0	0	0	0
L9H2G2	0	0	0	0	0
L0R1H0	0	0	0	0	0
L2E1Y3	0	0	0	0	0
N3R7K8	0	0	0	0	0
N3R7K8	0	0	0	0	0
N3C2E2	0	0	0	0	0
N2G1P2	0	0	0	0	0
N2M1B5	1	0	0	0	0
N2M3B5	1	0	0	0	0
N5H1K9	0	0	0	0	0
N0R1G0	0	0	0	0	0
N8X2G3	0	0	3	0	0
N0M1T0	0	0	0	0	0
N6C2R5	0	0	0	0	0
N0M1L0	0	1	0	0	0
N0G1L0	0	1	0	0	0
N0C1E0	0	0	0	0	0
L0M1S0	0	0	0	0	0
L4R4P4	0	0	0	0	0
K0J1B0	0	0	0	0	0
P0A1C0	0	2	1	1	0
P3E5V5	0	0	0	0	0
P7E1H5	0	0	0	0	0
P0W1E0	0	0	0	0	0
P8N2Z6	0	0	0	0	0
ILI Sum	3	13	11	5	0
ILI Consultation Rate (per 1,000 patient visits)	33.3	90.3	13.2	12.4	0.0

Source: Public Health Agency of Canada

* Sentinel physician information is reported to the Public Health Agency of Canada

Note: The small numbers of sentinel physicians reporting at the local level make the ILI rates unstable. Please interpret these data correspondingly.

FURTHER INFORMATION

1. Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
   Previous issues of the Ontario Influenza Bulletin can be accessed at:
   www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/pubhealth/flu/flu_04/flubul_mn.html

2. Public Health Agency of Canada
   Issues of FluWatch can be accessed at:
   www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/fluwatch/

3. United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
   www.cdc.gov/flu/

INFORMATION ABOUT AVIAN INFLUENZA

For latest information on status of avian influenza worldwide please use the following link:

Public Health Agency of Canada
http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/h5n1/index.html

APPENDIX

Definitions for influenza activity levels:

No Data: No activity report corresponding to the surveillance week was received at the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care Call Centre by the Tuesday (at 4 p.m.) following the end of the surveillance period.
No Activity = No ILI and no laboratory-confirmed cases* or outbreaks occurred.
Sporadic: sporadically occurring ILI **AND** laboratory-confirmed influenza* with NO outbreaks detected within the influenza surveillance region†
Localized: sporadically occurring ILI **AND** laboratory-confirmed influenza* together with outbreaks of ILI in schools and worksites or laboratory confirmed influenza in residential institutions occurring in less than 50% of the influenza surveillance region(s)
Widespread: sporadically occurring ILI **AND** laboratory-confirmed influenza* together with outbreaks of ILI in schools and worksites or laboratory-confirmed influenza in residential institutions occurring in greater than or equal to 50% of the influenza surveillance region(s)

* Confirmation of influenza within the surveillance region at any time within the prior four weeks
† Sub-regions within the province or territory as defined by the provincial/territorial epidemiologist

Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) Definitions:

A) ILI in the general population:

Acute onset of respiratory illness with fever and cough and with one or more of the following - sore throat, arthralgia, myalgia, or prostration which could be due to influenza virus. In children under 5, gastrointestinal symptoms may also be present. In patients under 5 or 65 and older, fever may not be prominent.

B) ILI/Influenza outbreaks:

Schools and work sites: greater than 10% absenteeism on any day most likely due to ILI.

Residential institutions: two or more cases of ILI within a seven-day period, including at least one laboratory-confirmed case.